



MSA-20 COUNSELING ADOLESCENTS

POLICY:

Family Planning services, counseling, and education will be available to any adolescent requesting these services.

PROCEDURE:

1. Education services include:
 - a. basic anatomy and physiology (male and female)
 - b. all methods of birth control (including abstinence)
 - i. effectiveness/benefits
 - ii. side effects/risks
 - c. STD education
2. Adolescents should be provided relevant education materials which include:
 - a. viewing of educational videos
 - b. educational pamphlets or brochures.
3. Further counseling includes:
 - a. consequences of unplanned pregnancy and use of contraception
 - b. personal responsibilities, if sexually active
 - c. strategies to help minors resist attempts to coerce them into engaging in sexual activities:
 - i. explanation of what coercion is;
 - ii. right to refuse sex at any time without negative consequences;
 - iii. right to set limits;
 - iv. awareness of the different kinds of peer pressures that might lead to sexual coercion and how the influence of drugs and alcohol can affect behavior and decision-making;
 - v. importance of self-esteem and self-respect in avoiding coercive relationships.
 - d. Notification of mandatory reporting requirements regarding child abuse, child molestation, sexual abuse, rape, or incest.
4. Encourage adolescents to discuss reproductive health issues with parent(s) and/or other family members.
5. Adolescents should be allowed to make clinic visits with short notice.